

REMARKS

In this Amendment, claims 1-20 are amended. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the printing layer does not contain the non-transfer antistatic agent. This amendment is supported by the specification at, for example, page 3, second paragraph, and page 9, second paragraph.

Stylistic amendments have also been made to the claims to more clearly recite the claimed subject matter. These amendments are not narrowing.

No new matter has been added.

Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Initially, it is noted that the certified copy of the priority document was submitted by Applicants, and thus was not received from the International Bureau as indicated in the Office Action. *The Examiner is requested to acknowledge the same.*

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

(1) At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7-20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Schuhmann et al. (US 5,851,640) in view of Ueda (EP 0613 919 A1). Specifically, the Examiner contends the following with regard to independent claim 1.

The Examiner contends that Schuhmann teaches a transparent, biaxially oriented multi-layer polypropylene film comprising a core layer (which the Examiner indicates corresponds to

the intermediate layer of claim 1) and at least one top layer (which the Examiner indicates corresponds to the printing layer of claim 1) on one or more sides of the core layer. The Examiner contends that both the core layer and top layer of Schuhmann may comprise a polypropylene resin and an antistatic agent.

The Examiner admits at page 3 of the Office Action that Schuhmann teaches a multi-layer film comprising an antistatic agent in all layers, and that Schuhmann does not teach a “non-transfer antistatic agent” as presently recited in the claims.

However, the Examiner believes that Ueda teaches a polyetheresteramide antistatic agent (non-transfer antistatic agent) which may be used in a polypropylene composition.

The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to substitute the antistatic agent taught by Ueda for the antistatic agent taught by Schuhmann for use in multilayer polypropylene films, because Ueda teaches that polyetheresteramide is compatible with propylene, has a high heat resistance, permanently retains its antistatic properties, and does not rinse away in the presence of water.

(2) At page 5 of the Office Action, claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Schuhmann in view of Ueda, as applied above, and further in view of Almog et al (US 6,767,588).

Specifically, the Examiner contends that Almog teaches that adhesion between an ink and a corona treated propylene substrate may be improved by applying a primer layer thereto. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to apply a primer to the corona-treated surface layer taught in

Schuhmann prior to application of an ink, to improve the adhesion between the ink and the substrate.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections because neither Schuhmann nor Ueda (nor Almog), either alone or in combination, suggest that a non-transfer antistatic agent should be contained in an intermediate layer of a multilayer thermoplastic resin, and at the same time omitted from a printing layer.

Schuhmann teaches multilayer films with antistatic agents in both the intermediate layer and the printing layer. Further, the antistatic agent of Schuhmann is a transfer antistatic agent that bleeds from the interior layer to impart antistatic properties to the printing layer (described at pages 3 and 4 of the specification).

A non-transfer anti-static agent, such as that of Ueda, will not bleed from the interior layer to the printing layer, and as such is not equivalent to the antistatic agent of Schuhmann.

Neither Schuhmann nor Ueda provide motivation to produce a multilayer thermoplastic resin wherein an intermediate layer has a non-transfer antistatic agent that is omitted from a printing layer. Based on the teachings of the cited art, the non-transfer antistatic agent of Ueda would be inoperable for its intended purpose when contained in the intermediate layer of a multilayer thermoplastic resin as taught by Schuhmann, because the non-transfer antistatic agent of Ueda will not bleed from the intermediate layer.

Thus, the cited art does not suggest the invention defined by the amended claims.

In addition, Almog does not cure the deficiency of the teachings of Schuhmann and Ueda with respect to the claimed invention.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 10/777,151

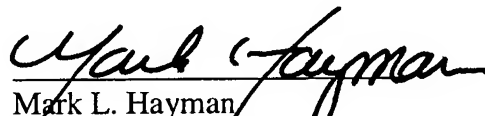
In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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